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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/521,558	01/19/2005	Kennichiro Hotokeishi	122465	2356
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/521,558

Applicant(s)

HOTOKEISHI, KENNICHIRO

Examiner

DENNIS DICKER

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 January 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/30/2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi Yukiko (hereinafter "Yukiko '516" JP 06-266516) in view of Hirabayashi (hereinafter "Hirabayashi" US 7,190,481) and further in view of Mori et al (hereinafter "Mori" US 6,417,931).

4. With respect to **Claim 1**, Yukiko '516 teaches a network printing system with a plurality of printing devices connected to a network (i.e., **Para 0005, computer comprising a plurality of printing devices connected to a network**), the system comprising: the plurality of printing devices (i.e., **Para 0005, plurality of printing**

devices in a system); and a network device (i.e., **Para 0005 , Computer**) for converting print-request data sent from a print requester into a format for a specified printing device to create print data (i.e., **Para 0005, computer uses conversion means for formatting print file data for a specified printing device**) and transmitting the print data to the specified printing device via the network (i.e., **Para 0005, print data converted by conversion means is transmitted to a specified printing device**), wherein the network device comprises: a device information storage section (i.e., **Para 0008, attribute value storage part**) for storing device information (i.e., **Para 0008, attribute value storage part memorizes attribute value data**); and a format converting section (i.e., **Para 0008, file conversion treating part[13]**) for converting print-request data into a print format for a specified printing device (i.e., **Para 0008, print file is converted by the conversion treating part into a page description language of a specific printing device**).

Yukiko '516 does not explicitly teach a storing device representing print specifications for the plurality of printing devices, the device information containing a resolution, a size and margins and a document definition file storage section for storing one or more document definition files representing one or more layouts for one or more documents and a format converting section for determining an actual print area according to at least on of the resolution , the size and the margins of the device information and converting print-request data into a print format for a specified printing device based on a ratio between a length of the document definition file specified in the print-request data and a length of the actual print area.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Hirabayashi and Mori. In particular, Hirabayashi teaches the use of a storing device representing print specifications for the plurality of printing devices (i.e., **Fig. 4 and Col. 8 lines 5-18, Printer driver database registers printer specifications for a plurality of device**), the device information containing a resolution, a size and margins (i.e., **Fig. 4, capability information**) and a document definition file storage section for storing one or more document definition files representing one or more layouts for one or more documents (i.e., **Fig. 6 and Col. 13 lines 17-55, RAM storing files representing layouts**), a format converting section for determining an actual print area according to at least one of the resolution, the size and the margins of the device information (i.e., **Col. 25 lines 45-67 and S742, image editor uses the print driver to convert image data into the print data**) and Mori teaches converting print-request data into a print format for a specified printing device based on a ratio between a length of the document definition file specified in the print-request data and a length of the actual print area (i.e., **Col. 2 lines 1-57, image data is converted to printable data based on a ratio between the image length and the printable length**).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the printing system of Yukiko '516 as taught by Hirabayashi and Mori that such a modification would provide an improved device information storage section that would increase the compatibility of a device to a job that would improve production and efficiency and Mori explains in Col.1 lines 40-55 that

such a modification to a format converting section would ensure that data to be printed do not extend out beyond the limits of a printable area.

With respect to **Claim 2**, Yukiko '516 teaches a network printing system wherein the network device (**i.e., Para 0007, server**) acquires the device information of the printing devices via the network (**i.e., Para 0008, server acquires the device information of printer devices which are described by the profiles**) and stores the device information in the device information storage section (**i.e., Para 0008, attribute value storage part stores device information**).

With respect to **Claim 3**, Yukiko '516 teaches a network printing system further comprising a client device (**i.e., Para 0007, Client Computer**) that registers a document definition file in the network device via the network (**i.e., Para 0007, the client computer registers the document definition file in the network device [server]**) and transmits the print-request data to the network device via the network (**i.e., Para 0008, the client computer transmits the print request data to the server via the network**).

With respect to **Claim 4**, Yukiko '516 teaches a network printing system, wherein the format converting section calculates a printable area of the specified printing device based on the device information (**i.e., Para 0008, format conversion section calculates the printable area based on a device information [profile]**), and calculates a print position of each item defined in the document definition file with reference to the printable area (**i.e., Para 0009-0008 , actual calculating of a print**

position for each item is indicated in the “actual print-out” section of the document definition file [profile] which has reference to the printable area).

With respect to **Claim 5**, Yukiko '516 teaches The network printing system, wherein the network device determines whether the specified printing device is available for printing (i.e., **Para 0018 , the server comprising a file transfer processing part obtains a parameter which could determine the availability of a printer device**), and if the specified printing device is not available for printing then uses device information of an alternative printing device to create the print data and transmits the print data to the alternative printing device (i.e., **Para 0018, the parameter may determine the availability of a printer device and if printer device is not available an alternative printer indicated by the language format file is selected to output the converted print data**).

With regards to the network printing device of **Claim 6**, the limitations of the claim 6 are corrected by limitations of claim 1 above. The steps of claim 6 read into the function steps of claim 1.

With regards to the network printing device of **Claim 7**, the limitations of the claim 7 are corrected by limitations of claim 2 above. The steps of claim 7 read into the function steps of claim 2.

With respect to **Claim 8**, Yukiko '516 teaches a network printing device wherein the network printing device is connected to a client device (i.e., **Para 0007 and Drawing 3, Client Computer connected to a network printing device**) that registers the document definition file via the network (i.e., **Para 0007, the client computer**

registers the document definition file in the network device [server]] and transmits the print-request data via the network (i.e., Para 0008, the client computer transmits the print request data to the server via the network).

With regards to the network printing device of **Claim 9**, the limitations of the claim 9 are corrected by limitations of claim 4 above. The steps of claim 9 read into the function steps of claim 4.

With regards to the network printing device of **Claim 10**, the limitations of the claim 10 are corrected by limitations of claim 5 above. The steps of claim 10 read into the function steps of claim 5.

With regards to the network printing method of **Claim 11**, the limitations of the claim 11 are corrected by limitations of claim 1 above. The steps of claim 11 read into the function steps of claim 1.

With respect to **Claim 12**, Yukiko '516 teaches a network printing method further comprising: acquiring the device information of the printing devices via the network (i.e., **Para 0008, server acquires the device information of printer devices which are described by the profiles**) and storing the device information in the device information storage section (i.e., **Para 0008, attribute value storage part stores device information**)..

With respect to **Claim 13**, Yukiko '516 teaches a network printing method, further comprising: registering the document definition file in the network device from a client device via the network (i.e., **Para 0007, the client computer registers the document definition file in the network device [server]]**); and transmitting the print-request data

from the client device via the network (**i.e., Para 0008, the client computer transmits the print request data to the server via the network**)..

With respect to **Claim 14**, Yukiko '516 teaches a network printing method, wherein format conversion comprises: calculating a printable area of the specified printing device based on the device information (**i.e., Para 0008, format conversion section calculates the printable area based on the device information [profile]**); and calculating a print position of each item defined in the document definition file with reference to the printable area (**i.e., Para 0009-0008 , actual calculating of a print position for each item is indicated in the "actual print-out" section of the document definition file [profile] which has reference to the printable area**)..

With respect to **Claim 15**, Yukiko '516 teaches a network printing method, further comprising: determining whether the specified printing device is available for printing (**i.e., Para 0018 , the server comprising a file transfer processing part obtains a parameter which could determine the availability of a printer device**); and if the specified printing device is not available for printing, creating the print data using device information of an alternative printing device and transmitting print data to the alternative printing device (**i.e., Para 0018, the parameter may determine the availability of a printer device and if printer device is not available an alternative printer determined by the language format file is selected to output the converted print data**).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DENNIS DICKER whose telephone number is (571)270-3140. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Haskins can be reached on (571) 272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. D./
Examiner, Art Unit 2625
1/7/2009

/Twyler L. Haskins/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625